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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

22 June 1956

SUBJECT: Conversation with Colonel Andrew J. Goodpaster, Dr. James Killian and Dr. Edwin Land, 21 June 1956

1. At Dr. Killian's request I accompanied him and Dr. Land to the White House at noon on 21 June to brief Colonel Goodpaster on AQUATONE and to discuss current operations with him. No one else was present. Before the briefing was started, Colonel Goodpaster explained that he had just returned from a meeting with the President at Walter Reed Hospital and that the President had discussed AQUATONE with him. Colonel Goodpaster had with him the original copy of the memorandum entitled "AQUATONE Operational Plans" dated 31 May (copy of which is attached) which had been handed to him by the DCI and General Twining at the beginning of the month. The President had read the paper and had made a longhand notation upon it. His discussion of AQUATONE with Colonel Goodpaster had been related to the paper.

2. Colonel Goodpaster stated that the President's views were as follows:

a. In general, he approved the course of action recommended in the paper.

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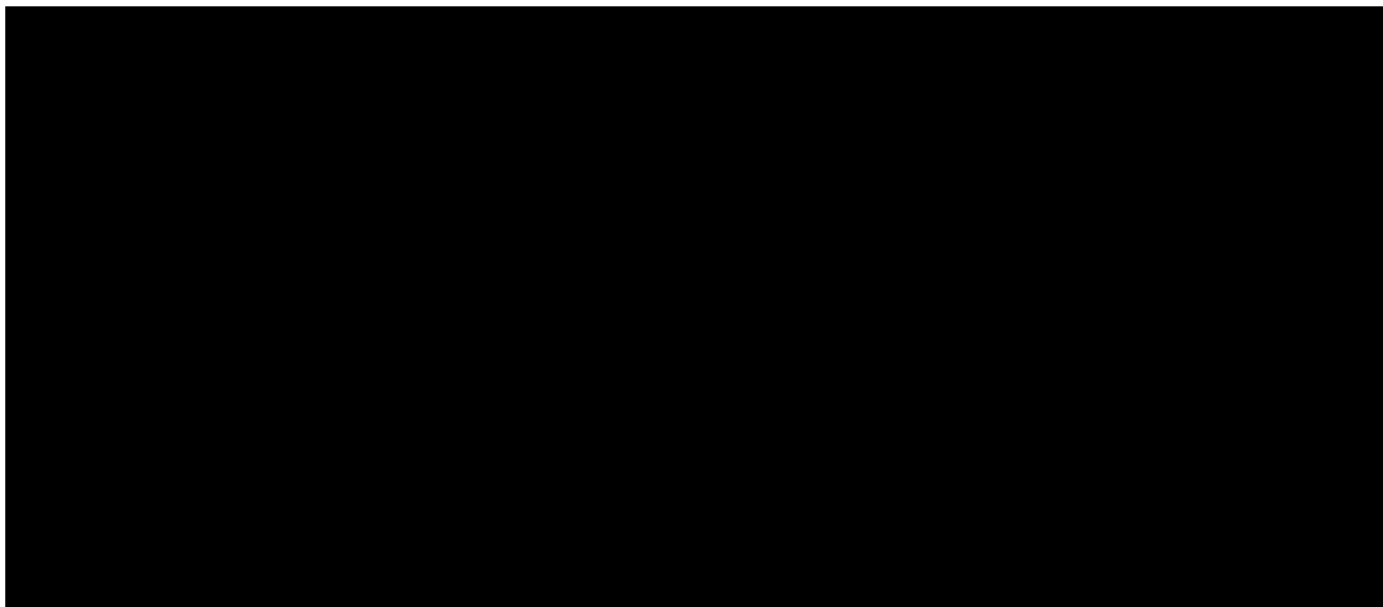
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-2-

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5. The balance of the conversation was devoted to a rather full briefing of Colonel Goodpaster and discussion of various phases of the project primarily by Drs. Killian and Land. The main topics discussed were the following:

- a. Progress of equipment, with special emphasis on the shift that has been made to the new (J-57 P-31) and more reliable engine and on the extremely high quality photography obtained in recent flights in the US with the A-1 and A-2 camera configurations.
- b. Present enemy interception capability, the predictable development of a higher altitude interception capability, and a consequent urgency of making use of this reconnaissance system while a clear advantage over interception still obtains.
- c. Colonel Goodpaster's desire for periodic operational reports when deep penetration missions are being conducted.
- d. The whole question of the position to be taken by the U. S. in the contingency of the loss of an aircraft over enemy territory. On this point I explained that arrangements of a rather pedestrian sort were being worked out with the Department of State and other interested parties. Drs. Killian and Land suggested consideration of a much bolder action by the U. S. involving admission that overflights were being conducted to guard against surprise attack. It was left that we would think further about

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-3-

this matter and perhaps suggest several alternative courses of action which would be discussed with someone in the Department of State and among which a choice could be made on short notice.



RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR. J
Project Director

Attachment:

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